

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. The chemical protective equipment issued [redacted] consisted of a gas mask, anti-gas boots, anti-gas mittens, an anti-gas sheet, and a tube of ointment for blister gas decontamination. The following is a detailed description of these items:

- a. Gas Mask. All personnel were issued gas masks of German manufacture. The canister was identical to the German Fe 37 model. The face piece was similar to the German Gm 38 face piece except that it had no rubber tab extending from the top of the face piece for hanging the mask and the head harness was smooth (neither corrugated nor elastic) near the three upper face piece connections. The inlet and outlet openings were smaller than in the Gm 38, [redacted] air passed in and out one passageway through the canister. There were no anti-dim discs of the German type; instead a soap-stick type of anti-dim was used. Each man was issued a training and a combat canister for use with his gas mask. The training canister was ordinarily used for gas mask drill and road marches, but it was not effective against chemical agents. The combat canister was worn only for parades, smoke exercises, or gas chamber exercises. [redacted]

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- (1) Markings. The combat canister was painted green; the training canister was painted also but had a red stripe around it. The face piece was stamped on the inside and in the center of the forehead section with the numerals "1" through "3" to indicate the size of the face piece.

ARMY review completed.

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- (2) Carrier. The German metal carrier [redacted] was used. 25X1
- (3) Storage. Each company stored its gas masks in a special room. The masks were hung in racks, as were the extra canisters. One noncommissioned officer and one private were assigned the primary duty of watching the gas masks.
- (4) Inspection. Once a month Capt. (fnu) PAVLIZTIK, the regimental chemical officer, would come to the battalion to check gas masks and canisters. All soldiers who had not detached their combat canisters were made to assemble in ranks and given a verbal reprimand.

b. Anti-gas boots. As were their German counterparts, Czech anti-gas boots were supported by two tapes which were wrapped around the boots and reached to the belt at the waist. They were brown, had hard rubber soles, and thin rubberized cloth uppers that were not very elastic.

c. Anti-gas mittens. The mittens fit loosely and were made of the same light rubberized material as the boot uppers which permitted the proper use of the trigger finger. A long string attached to the top of each mitten was tied around the neck. A shaking motion of the hands freed them of the mittens and enabled the wearer to throw them over his shoulders. The string around the neck also facilitated putting on the mittens.

d. Anti-gas sheet. The anti-gas sheet, probably German, was a rectangular sheet of green waxed paper, 2 x 1½ m.

e. Ointment for Blister Gas Decontamination. [redacted] a tube of ointment for blister gas (Lewisite and Mustard) decontamination was in the mask carrier. An anti-dim soan stick and some cotton were also in the gas mask carrier. [redacted] no hypodermic needles issued at the battalion level. 25X1 25X1 25X1

2. The organization for protection against CW was as follows:

a. Battalion. [redacted] one noncommissioned officer and one private who were designated as gas noncommissioned officers. The noncommissioned officer gave lectures twice a week to a gas noncommissioned officer from each company, who in turn lectured to the troops in his company. 25X1

b. Regiment. There was a regimental chemical platoon in my regiment (1 officer and 13 enlisted men) headed by Capt. (fnu) PAVLIZTIK [redacted] 25X1

c. Division. [redacted] each division had a chemical battalion attached to it.

3. There was a division chemical school in Slany to which battalion and regimental gas noncommissioned officers were sent for instruction. The course lasted six months and upon its completion, the noncommissioned officers returned to their units where they, in turn, instructed trainees.

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4. [redacted] since there was a chemical battalion in my unit, there had to be a chemical supply depot in Slanv. [redacted]

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5. Emphasis on chemical training had been accelerated since October 1951. The order came from the Ministry of National Defense (Ministerstvo Narodni Obrany -- MNO) through the 5th Mecz. Div. [redacted]

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6. Training in the Czechoslovak Army was centrally controlled. Each year the MNO issued a training program for the Czechoslovak Army which in its different sections covered all branches of the service. There were three training phases; summer, autumn, and winter. A classified annex of approximately 800 pages which explained the references given in the training program was issued each unit. [redacted]

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[redacted] The training program specified that a unit would have a given number of hours of training in a subject in the Autumn of 1952 and gave a reference to the annex which would prescribe the details of the instruction [redacted] note: similar to US field manuals7.

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7. [redacted] company commanders, however, had to attend the movies together with their units.

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8. [redacted] simulated air raid gas spray attacks in the field. When the verbal alarm "gas" was given, each man had to put on his gas mask, anti-gas boots, anti-gas mittens, and crouch under his anti-gas sheets. The unit marched three or four kilometers every Saturday wearing gas masks. During the tactical march, certain areas were designated as being contaminated, and troops had to maneuver around them. In September or October 1952 the MNO issued an order which required all soldiers to wear gas masks for three-hour periods during chemical warfare training.

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9. Occasionally the regiment made road marches in conjunction with the regimental chemical platoon which would lay smoke screens across the route of march. All soldiers were required to don their masks prior to crossing the screen. Combat canisters were used at that time.

10. Individual training was given in the identification of war gases; sniff sets were utilized. Lewisite, chlorpicrin, phosgene and mustard gas were used in the training. [redacted] following odors

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[redacted] rotten apples, onions, and one which smelled like flowers and caused choking. [redacted] all war gases had a smell /sic7.

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Lewisite was the most dangerous gas and both Lewisite and mustard gas had a persistency of about six months.

11. [redacted] gas shells and high explosive shells made the same sound on detonation and could not be differentiated by sound.

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12. The battalion gas noncommissioned officer had a chemical detector kit. [redacted] it had glass tubes seven centimeters long containing colored powders which were in a rack 20 cm. long. The rack was carried in a leather case, 20 x 10 x 10 cm. 25X1
13. The battalion had some hand decontamination pumps 3 cm. in diameter and 30 cm. long. In February 1952 the Regimental Chemical Platoon put on a decontamination demonstration for the battalion using the hand decontamination pump. A large area could be decontaminated by plowing the ground. In field problems, emplacements for machine guns were normally provided with overhead cover for protection against chemical attack.
14. [redacted] Gas chambers were also located in the old and new casernes in Beroun. Tear gas was used in the chambers. 25X1
[redacted] Capt. PAVLIZTIK was in charge of the regimental gas chamber, a small wooden building which held 10 men. Officers and enlisted men went through the same training. The men entered the gas chamber twice; first they remained in the chambers for as long a period as they could without masks and then with masks to show the protection they provided. Unit commanders supervised the training, inspected masks for fit, and checked for the correct positioning of combat canisters before the men entered the gas chamber.
15. Guards were issued combat gas mask canisters at the ammunition dump in Lhoutka (three kilometers northeast of Beroun). The combat canisters were kept in the guard house and issued to EM going on guard. [redacted] no chemical ammunition in the dump. On one occasion three combat canisters disappeared [redacted] and the Regimental Gas Officer carried out the necessary investigation. He recommended that disciplinary action be taken in regard to the sergeant involved but hid the loss from his superiors for fear of "losing prestige". Guard personnel were not given special instructions as to what their duties would include in case of warfare. 25X1
16. Within the battalions and regiments there were Soviet smoke pots of four types which varied only in weight. The cylindrical pots were painted black, had a raised, scratch-type igniter in the center of the top and came in 0.5 kg., 1.0 kg., 2.0 kg., and 2.5 kg. weights. Each pot had the letter "H", followed by two or three digits, painted in white. The pots burned for 10 to 15 min. depending on the type. The area covered by the smoke screen was about 10 x 10 m. but varied with changes in the wind. The smoke was black [redacted] red smoke [redacted] was produced by German pots that had a pull-type igniter. [redacted] smoke screen exercises [redacted] During the exercises the chemical platoon placed a line of smoke pots perpendicular to the line of march of my unit. One line of men from the chemical platoon made the troops don their masks before entering the smoke and another line of chemical troops told them when to remove their masks after passing through the smoke. 25X1
17. A gassed area on the ground was to be represented on the map by a single black line around the area which was filled solid with yellow or crossed by yellow diagonal stripes. The area on the ground was to be marked by yellow triangular pennants mounted on stakes and each bearing a black letter "P". Yellow, including yellow signal rockets, indicated gas in all instances.
18. My unit, the 5th Mecz. Div., as well as the 11th Inf. Div. and the 12th Inf. Div. were on maneuvers near Asarby Les on 15 May 1952; at that time [redacted] only the German-type of gas mask carrier [redacted] was carried by all personnel in the maneuver area at all times. 25X1

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19. The Czechoslovak Army school for infantry battalion commanders [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] was under the direct supervision of the MNO.
[redacted] it moved from Milovice /5014N-1454E/ 25X1
to Bruntal. The course lasted a year and included 48 to 60 hours of
instruction in chemical warfare. Instruction was similar to that
given to soldiers and consisted of gas mask drills, the use of sniff
sets and smoke, but did not include gas chamber exercises. Methods
of instruction were presented in the same topics. [redacted] 25X1
a flame thrower demonstration; two portable German flame throwers
with a range of about 15 m. were used. Both of the flame throwers
were refillable.
20. [redacted] in a military hospital in Olomouc /4935N-1715E/ [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] four men brought in who
were badly burned. [redacted] the men were from a chemical unit
in Jeseniky /5014N-1712E/ where seven men were burned in an
explosion. Three were treated locally in Jeseniky; the four who were
brought to the hospital in Olomouc later died of the burns. 25X1
21. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] every soldier in the Czech Army received
an inoculation against typhoid and a smallpox vaccination yearly. 25X1
22. Drives were constantly conducted for the donation of blood for Korea.
Civilians who participated were rewarded with .25 kg. of chocolate,
.5 kg. of raisins, .5 kg. of sugar, and a ration card for fruit and
meat. Soldiers received 500 crowns for every .5 liters of blood
donated.
23. The [redacted] person [redacted] concerned with CW was Captain (fnu) 25X1
PAVLIZTIK, assigned as Regimental Chemical Officer of the 38th Mecz.
Regt. [redacted] 25X1

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